

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 181349Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBAESY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1747

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN ANC CONGRESS PUT OFF

REF: LUSAKA 1014, 1054

1. ZAMBIAN PRESS JUNE 17 HEADLINED NEWS FROM SALISBURY THAT RHODESIAN AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) HAS CALLED OFF CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 21-22. TERSE STATEMENT ISSUED MONDAY BY ANC CHAIRMAN MOZUREWA SAID ONLY THAT "DUE TO SERIOUS ADMINSTRATIVE AND OTHER EXTREME DIFFICULTIES" CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE HELD ON THOSE DATES. HE ALSO CALLED UPON ALL ZIMBABWEANS TO OBSEVE JUNE 22 AS DAY OF PRAYER AND MOURNING FOR THOSE KILLED IN JUNE 1 DISORDERS FOLLOWING EXCUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE IN FAVOR OF CONVENING CONGRESS.

2. JUSTIN NYOKA REPORT CARRIES IN TIMES OF ZAMBIA STATES THAT MUZOREWA ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS DAYS OF INTENSIVE BEHIND-THE SCENES BARGAINING AMONG AHC LEADERS. NYOKA SAYS "POLITICAL OBSERVERS"

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IN SALISBURY CONSIDER POSTPONEMENT DECISION AS DEFEAT FOR IAN SMITH

WHO HAD HOPED PROPOSED CONGRESS WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER DISUNITY WITHIN ANC RANKS. IT ALSO "PUTS SAID" TO SPECULATION THAT "SOME SECTIONS OF ANC" MIGHT ENGINEER NEW LEADERSHIP THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH SMITH ALONG SOFTER LINES. WHO THOSE "SECTIONS" ARE WAS SPELLED OUT IN LUSAKA BY FORMER FROLIZ PRESIDENT CHIKEREMA WHO ACCUSED JOSHUA NKOMO OF TRYING TO SELL OUT ANC IN "SECRET DEALS" WITH SMITH AND CALLED FOR NKOMO'S RESIGNATION. DAILY MAIL REPORTS POSTPONEMENT DECISION WAS ACTUALLY REACHED LAST THURSDAY JUNE 12 IN MEETING ATTENDED BY ELEVEN MEMBERS OF ANC CENTRAL COMMITTEE INCLUDENG BOTH PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF CONGRESS.

3. TIMES OF ZAMBIA, WHICH INITIALLY OPPOSED CONGRESS, FAIRLY CROWS IN EDITORIAL ASSERTING THIS TURN OF EVENTS PROVES NATIONALISTS WILL PROBABLY NEED RETAIN LEADERSHIP OF BISHOP MUEOREWA "FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, IF ONLY AS SOME KIND OF JOHN THE BAPTIST UNTIL ZIMBABWE'S CHOSEN MAN EMERGED FROM THE CROWD". NONE OF FOUR ANC LEADERS - MUZOREWA, NKOMO, SITHOLE, AND CHIKEREMA - SHOULD BELIEVE HE CAN KICK OUT THE OTHERS AND THEN LEAD LIBERATION STRUGGLE TO VICTORY. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY DUBBING "PREMATURE" CALL FOR CONGRESS "A POLITICAL MISCHIEF OF THE HIGHEST MAGNITUDE".

4. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY MAIL, WHICH HAD EARLIER CARRIED TWR EDITORIALS IMPLICITLY SUPPORTING CONGRESS, HAS YET TO COMMENT ON DECISION.
WILKOWSKI

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